

Message Text

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FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: US UK PFOR RH
SUBJECT: MUZOREWA PRESS CONFERENCE

BELOW IS TEXT OF ARTICLE PREPARED BY BRITISH DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION JOURNALIST WHO ATTENDED BISHOP MUZOREWA'S ARRIVAL
PRESS CONFERENCE. REV. SITHOLE'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED
SEPARATELY.

BEGIN TEXT.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY
BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA WHEN HE ARRIVED AT GENEVA THIS MORNING
(OCTOBER 25):

THE BISHOP WAS INTRODUCED BY HIS PUBLICITY SECRETARY AS THE
PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE AND THAT
HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE MAJORITY PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

THE BISHOP TOLD THE JOURNALISTS THAT HE WAS VERY THRILLED
TO BE IN GENEVA. "I HAVE COME HERE WITH ONE PURPOSE: -
TO SEE THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WORKING WITH THE BRITISH GOVERN-
MENT IN SETTING UP THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION OF RHODESIA,"
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HE ADDED.

ASKED WHAT RESPONSIBILITY HE SAW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS HAVING, THE BISHOP REPLIED THAT HE WANTED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BE SERIOUS. HE ADDED, " I HAVE BEEN CALLING SINCE THE DEFEAT OF THE PEARCE COMMISSION FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BEING SERIOUS AND PUT THEIR FEET DOWN IN ORDER THAT THIS MEETING CAN BE SUCCESSFUL."

ASKED HOW HE SAW HIS ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE, THE BISHOP SAID HIS ROLE WAS TO BE ONE OF THE PEOPLE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT DECOLONISATION. ASKED IF HE WOULD WORK WITH OTHER LEADERS, SUCH AS MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE, IN A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, MR. MUZOREWA REPLIED, "I BELIEVE ALL OF US ARE UNITED IN THE CALL FOR DECOLONISATION."

A JOURNALIST ASKED IF HE AGREED WITH MR. SMITH'S COMMITMENT TO THE LETTER OF THE KISSINGER PLAN. HE REPLIED, "I ABSOLUTELY DISAGREE WITH MR. SMITH. IF HE STICKS TO THIS, I WOULD REGRET IT AS WE WOULD BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE."

A JOURNALIST ASKED IF HE WOULD SUPPORT MR. NKOMO'S AND MR. MUGABE'S PROPOSALS AT THE CONFERENCE. HE REPLIED, "I KNOW MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE ARE DEMANDING DECOLONISATION. I AM ALSO CALLING FOR THAT SO WE ARE TOGETHER. THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS ARE ALL UNITED IN ONE PURPOSE AGAINST THE RHODESIA FRONT."

ASKED IF HE WOULD LET INTERNAL SECURITY BE IN WHITE HANDS DURING THE TRANSITION, THE BISHOP SAID, "ABSOLUTELY NOT, BECAUSE FOR THE BLACKS IN ZIMBABWE DEFENCE AND LAW AND ORDER IN THE HANDS OF THE RHODESIA FRONT WOULD EQUAL OPPRESSION AND IF THERE IS TO BE A MEANINGFUL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, THEN THIS WILL HAVE TO STOP."

Q. DO YOU HAVE A DOCUMENT TO LAY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE?

A. YES. OF COURSE.

Q. WHAT DO YOU WANT MR. RICHARD TO DO?

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A. WE WANT THE BRITISH TO PUT THEIR FEET DOWN AND RECOGNISE THAT THIS IS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THAT WHATEVER HAS BEEN AGREED IS NEGOTIABLE - NOT JUST TO TAKE IT AS MR. SMITH HAS PUT IT.

Q. WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE KISSINGER DOCUMENT AS A STARTING POINT?

A. THAT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT AS LONG AS IT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE WHERE EVERYTHING CAN BE NEGOTIATED.

Q. WHO CONTROLS THE ANC? YOU OR MR. NKOMO?

A. THE FACT IS THAT OVER 90 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE OF
ZIMBABWE ARE IN MY ANC.

Q. WOULD YOU SERVE UNDER MR. NKOMO?

A. MY BUSINESS IS WITH THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION. I HAVE
NOT THOUGHT ABOUT MY POSITION IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Q. DO YOU SEE THE NATIONALISTS WORKING TOGETHER AT THE
CONFERENCE?

A. DEFINITELY. WE WILL SOLIDLY AGREE ON WHAT WE DEMAND AND WILL
STICK TO THAT UNTIL THE CONFERENCE IS OVER.

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE ABOUT THE
GUERRILLA WAR CONTINUING AND INTENSIFYING?

A. MY POSITION IS ALSO THE SAME AS THEIRS ON THIS.

END TEXT. CATTO

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